

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IATF:OSC:JVSMILLINGTON

APPROVED BY IATF:RVKEELEY

IATF/OSC:LARSENBLATT

IATF/OSC:LHHYDLE

IATF/OSC:LARSENBLATT

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R 222359Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CG CAMP PENDLETON CA

CG FT CHAFFEE ARK

FT INDIANTOWN GAP PA

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SUBJECT:IMPROVED FEEDBACK INFORMATION FROM RESETTLED
REFUGEES

1. AFTER RECENT VISITS TO PENDLETON AND FORT CHAFFEE, IT
APPEARS THAT REFUGEE RELUCTANCE AND HESITATION TO LEAVE
THE CAMPS IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, ONE WHICH IS NOW
SURFACING AT EGLIN. AS TIME PASSES AND THE EAGER AND MORE
"SPONSORABLE" REFUGEES LEAVE THE CAMPS, THE PROBLEMS OF
HARD-TO-PLACE REFUGEES AND OF REFUGEE RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE
COULD BECOME A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE VOLAGS AND THE CAMP
AUTHORITIES.

2. DURING THE VISITS OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONCERNS
(OSC) TEAMS TO CONUS CAMPS, IT WAS FOUND THAT POSITIVE
FEEDBACK FROM ALREADY RESETTLED REFUGEES WAS AN EFFECTIVE
WAY TO ALLAY REFUGEE ANXIETIES ABOUT AMERICAN LIFE AND
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ENCOURAGE REFUGEES TO LEAVE THE CAMPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN SOME CASES, REFUGEES WHO HAD LEFT A PARTICULAR CAMP WOULD RETURN LATER TO MEET WITH FRIENDS STILL IN THE CAMP AND TO TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR SPONSORS AND WITH LIFE OUTSIDE THE CAMP. WHEN VIETNAMESE EX-REFUGEE MEMBERS OF THE OSC SURVEY TEAMS MET WITH IN-CAMP REFUGEES THEY DREW LARGE CROWDS. ANOTHER WAY FOR FEEDBACK TO BE RECEIVED IS FOR RESETTLED REFUGEES TO EITHER CALL OR WRITE BACK TO FRIENDS IN THE CAMPS. THOUGH THIS TYPE OF CONTACT IS NOT AS COMPELLING AS PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACT, IT DOES ALSO HAVE A GENERALLY POSITIVE EFFECT ON OVERALL CAMP MORALE.

3. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND FEEDBACK TO THE CAMPS FROM SUCCESSFULLY RESETTLED REFUGEES, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE: A) THAT SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS ENCOURAGE AND HELP THE VOLAGS TO REGULARLY CONTACT AND BRING BACK FOR A NIGHT SUCCESSFULLY RESETTLED REFUGEES FROM AS MANY LOCATIONS AS POSSIBLE. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE KEPT LOW-KEY AND THE RETURNING REFUGEES SHOULD BE FREE TO MINGLE WITH THE IN-CAMP REFUGEES IN THE MANNER THEY FIND MOST NATURAL. THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON SELECTING AVERAGE REFUGEES WITH WHOM THE IN-CAMP REFUGEES CAN MOST EASILY IDENTIFY. HIGH EX-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXTREMELY ACTIVE OR SUCCESSFUL REFUGEES SHOULD BE AVOIDED. B) THAT THE SENIOR CIVILIAN COORDINATOR TRY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER VOLUNTARY CONTACT BETWEEN RESETTLED REFUGEES AND IN-CAMP REFUGEES BY MAKING THE TOLL FREE TELEPHONES AVAILABLE ON A CONTROLLED BASIS TO DEPARTING REFUGEES SO THAT THEY CAN CALL BACK TO FRIENDS, OR ORGANIZING REFUGEE COMMITTEES IN THE CAMPS TO TELEPHONE DIRECTLY TO REFUGEES WHO HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED. OSC IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN EX-REFUGEES FROM ITS STAFF FOR TDY TO THE CAMPS TO MEET WITH REFUGEES, TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH MAY ARISE. ROBINSON

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